

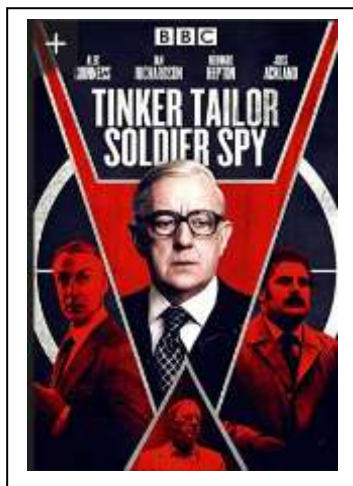
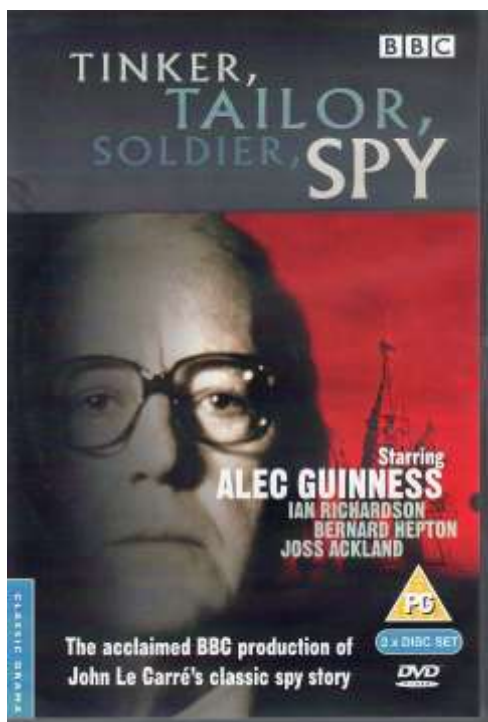
REF: 146

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy**

TV Mini Series

Library Image



SBN:5014503118020

Information

Release **Title:** Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy 10th September 1979
(United Kingdom)

From:

AKA:

Release date: 29th September 1980

Origin: United Kingdom

Genres: Drama, Mystery, Thriller

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 4h 50m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, Czech, Russian

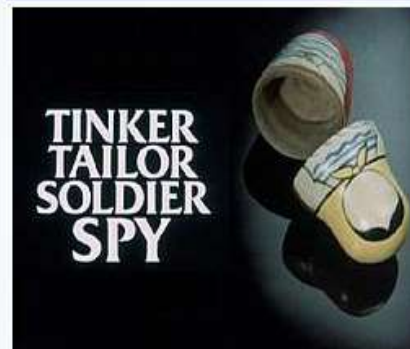
Filming locations: Bywater Street, Chelsea, London, England, UK (Smiley's house) England, UK

Sound mix: Mono

Colour: PAL

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy



Opening title

Based on	<i>Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy</i> by John le Carré
Written by	Arthur Hopcraft
Screenplay by	John le Carré
Directed by	John Irvin
Starring	Alec Guinness Michael Jayston Anthony Bate George Sewell
Theme music composer	Geoffrey Burgon
Country of origin	United Kingdom
Original language	English
No. of episodes	7

Production

Producer	Jonathan Powell
Cinematography	Tony Pierce-Roberts
Editors	Chris Wimble Clare Douglas
Running time	UK: 315 min, US: 290 min

Release

Original network	BBC2
Original release	10 September – 22 October 1979

Storyline

George Smiley, deputy to the head of the British Secret Intelligence Service, is forced into retirement in the wake of Operation Testify, a failed spy mission to Czechoslovakia. Veteran British agent Jim Prideaux has been sent to meet a Czech general, having been told the general had information identifying a deep-cover Soviet spy planted in the highest echelons of the British Secret Intelligence Service—known as the Circus, because of its headquarters at Cambridge Circus in London.

The mission proves to be a trap, and Prideaux is captured and brutally tortured by the Soviets. The Chief of the Circus, known only as Control, is disgraced for his role in Testify, and is replaced by his rival Percy Alleline. Control's obsession with the possibility of a Soviet mole at the Circus is not shared by others in the organization, who insist that any leaks and failures at the Circus were due to Control's incompetence. On the contrary, Alleline and the rest of the new leadership team at the Circus believe that they have a mole, code-named Merlin, working for them in Moscow Centre, the KGB headquarters, passing them secrets in an operation code-named Witchcraft. Others in the British and American intelligence communities have been impressed with the information produced by Witchcraft, and Alleline and his team are regarded as a refreshing change from Control.

More than a year after Testify and the shake-up at the Circus, Ricki Tarr, a British agent gone missing in Lisbon, turns up in England with new evidence backing up Control's theory of a mole at the Circus. While on a routine mission Tarr had been approached by Irina, a low-level Soviet agent who claimed to know the identity of the mole and wanted to trade it for permission to defect. As soon as Tarr had informed the Circus of Irina's offer, she was abducted and spirited back to Russia. Tarr, convinced he had been betrayed by the mole Irina was going to identify, believed that he would also be targeted and murdered. Returning to London secretly, Tarr contacts Oliver Lacon, a senior civil servant who is the liaison between the Circus and the British Cabinet.

Before his ousting, Control had narrowed his list of suspects to five men – Roy Bland, Toby Esterhase, Bill Haydon, Percy Alleline, and George Smiley – all of whom occupied high positions in the Circus. Knowing the Soviet spy is highly placed in the Circus, Lacon cannot trust the Circus to uncover the mole or even allow its personnel to know of the investigation. Smiley, who had been fired along with Control while Control's other four suspects were promoted, is recalled by Lacon and given instructions to expose the mole. With the help of his protégé, Peter Guillam, who is still in the Circus, Smiley begins a secret investigation into the events surrounding Operation Testify, believing it will lead him to the identity of the mole, whom Moscow Centre has given the cover name Gerald.

Smiley learns that Operation Witchcraft uses a safe house to meet with Aleksey Aleksandrovich Polyakov, a Soviet agent. Polyakov appears to hand over valuable intelligence material, but this is actually "chickenfeed", and the operation is a cover by which Gerald passes valuable material to Polyakov. Smiley forces Toby Esterhase to reveal the location of the safe house. Tarr is sent to Paris, from where he sends a coded message to Alleline about "information crucial to the well-being of the Service". This triggers an emergency meeting between Gerald and Polyakov at the safe house, where Smiley and Guillam are lying in wait.

The mole is revealed to be Bill Haydon. Haydon is debriefed by Smiley but is killed by Jim Prideaux before he can be exchanged with the Russians.

Cast

Alec Guinness as George Smiley / "Beggarmen"

Alexander Knox as Control

Michael Jayston as Peter Guillam

Anthony Bate as Oliver Lacon

Bernard Hepton as Toby Esterhase / "Poorman"

Ian Richardson as Bill Haydon / "Tailor"

Ian Bannen as Jim Prideaux

Hywel Bennett as Ricki Tarr

Michael Aldridge as Percy Alleline / "Tinker"

Terence Rigby as Roy Bland / "Soldier"

George Sewell as Mendel
Beryl Reid as Connie Sachs
Joss Ackland as Jerry Westerby
Siân Phillips as Ann Smiley
Frank Moorey as Lauder Strickland
Nigel Stock as Roddy Martindale
John Standing as Sam Collins
Thorley Walters as Tufty Thessinger
John Wells as Headmaster
Patrick Stewart as Karla
Mandy Cuthbert as Molly Purcell
Warren Clarke as Alwyn
Joe Praml as Paul Skordeno
Susan Kodicek as Irina
Alec Sabin as Fawn
Hilary Minster as Boris
George Pravda as Polyakov
Duncan Jones as "Jumbo" Roach

Parents Guide

Certification

Germany:12 Norway:9 (recommended rating) Singapore:PG United Kingdom:PG United States:TV-14 **Sex & Nudity - Mild Violence & Gore – None Profanity – Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking – Frightening & Intense Scenes -**

